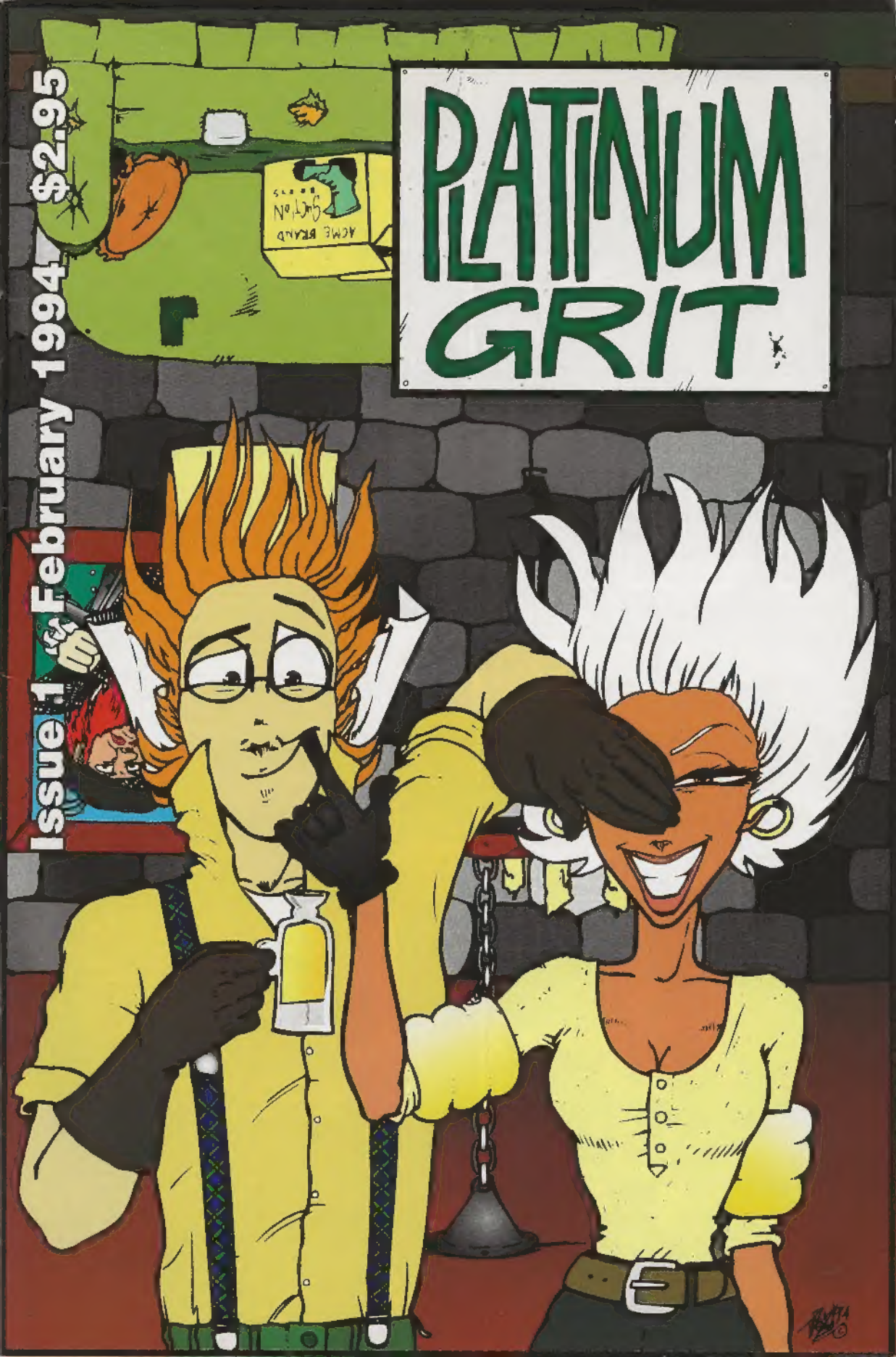
PLATINUM GRIT

Issue 1 February 1994 $2.95



WHAT, ALL OF THEM?
YEAH.
TOGETHER? AT THE SAME TIME?
WHY NOT?
"CHAPTER HEADINGS FOR OLd NOVELS"
PART ONE
IN WHICH NILS AND JEREMY ARRIVE AT THE CASTLE.
THAT'S STUPID.
OH HO HO!
NOT ALL OF THEM.
YOU CAN'T DO IT!
OF COURSE I CAN DO IT!
OH YEAH? PROVE IT!
I CHOOSE NOT TO!
OH YEAH? GOT FREE WILL, HAVE YOU?
YOU JUST DON'T KNOW HOW.
I DO!
GO ON THEN. I DARE YOU!
RIGHT. I WILL.
PLATINUM GRIT CAFÉ.
JUNK BUNNIES
ODD COLLECTABLES
TOURS
HUP!
HEEEEEEY-OOP! HOY! ACH!
ALLEZ-OOP! HUP! HOY! .... HEYY-UP! HAH!

HACH! HOP!
HEYYY-UP! HOO!
CRUN CRUNCH!

DER KRANKENHOP!
WHUP! WHA-HEY!
CRUNCH!

ACH! GEMÜTLICH!
HUP! HOY!
CRUNCH CRUNCH

HACH! ALLES SCHLÄFT!
AYYYY-OOP! WOO!
CRUNCH CRUNCH! CRUN

MORNING.
'MORNING NILS! WANT A LATTÉ?
GOOD PLAN.

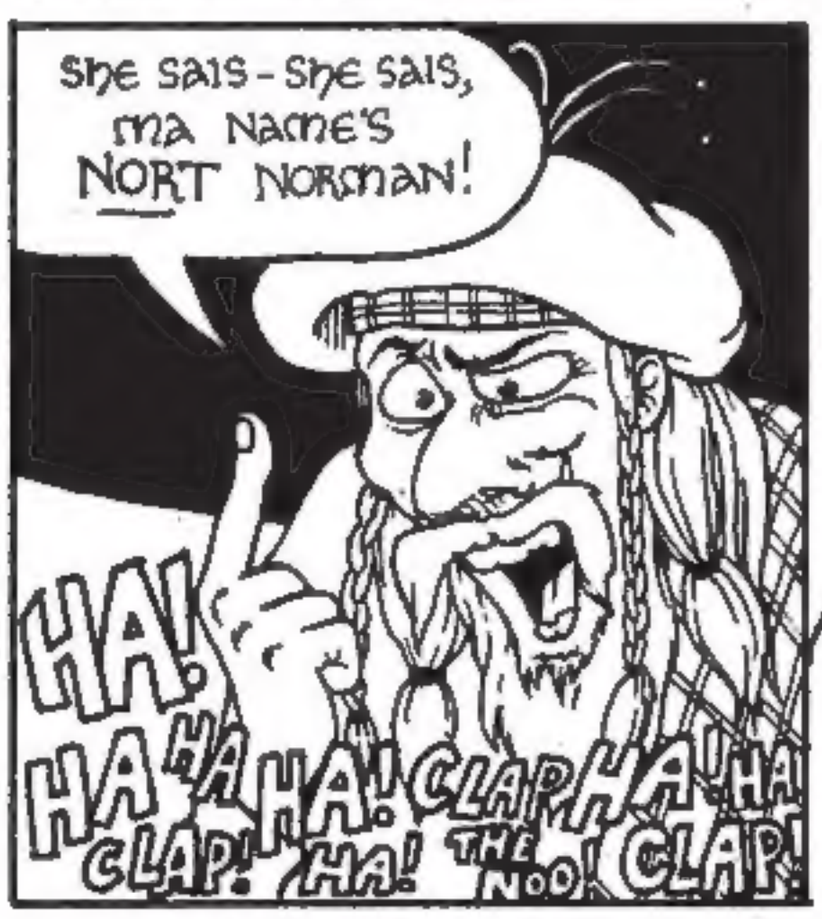
TWO PLEASE ZEIGFRIED.
ACH!

MAIL CAME EARLY THIS MORNING.

ANYTHING FOR ME?
ONLY THIS ONE... WOO! IT'S FROM-

"SCOTLAND!"
GUID TOSS, MALCOLM!

863 YEARS AGO...
BUDD CATCH THO' DONAL.
YE KEN WHAT SHE SAIS NEXT O' COORSE!!
NAY, THEN! WHA'S SHE SAY?
THIC TAIL US!


SHE SAIS - SHE SAIS, MA NAME'S NORT NORMAN!
HA! HA HA HA! CLAP HA HA CLAP! HA! THE NOO! CLAP!

OH, "CRACKER" - YE'RE WULL NAMED, 'TIS TROO.
OH AYE - CRISP AN' SALTY WI' LITTLE DIMPLES...
....AYE.

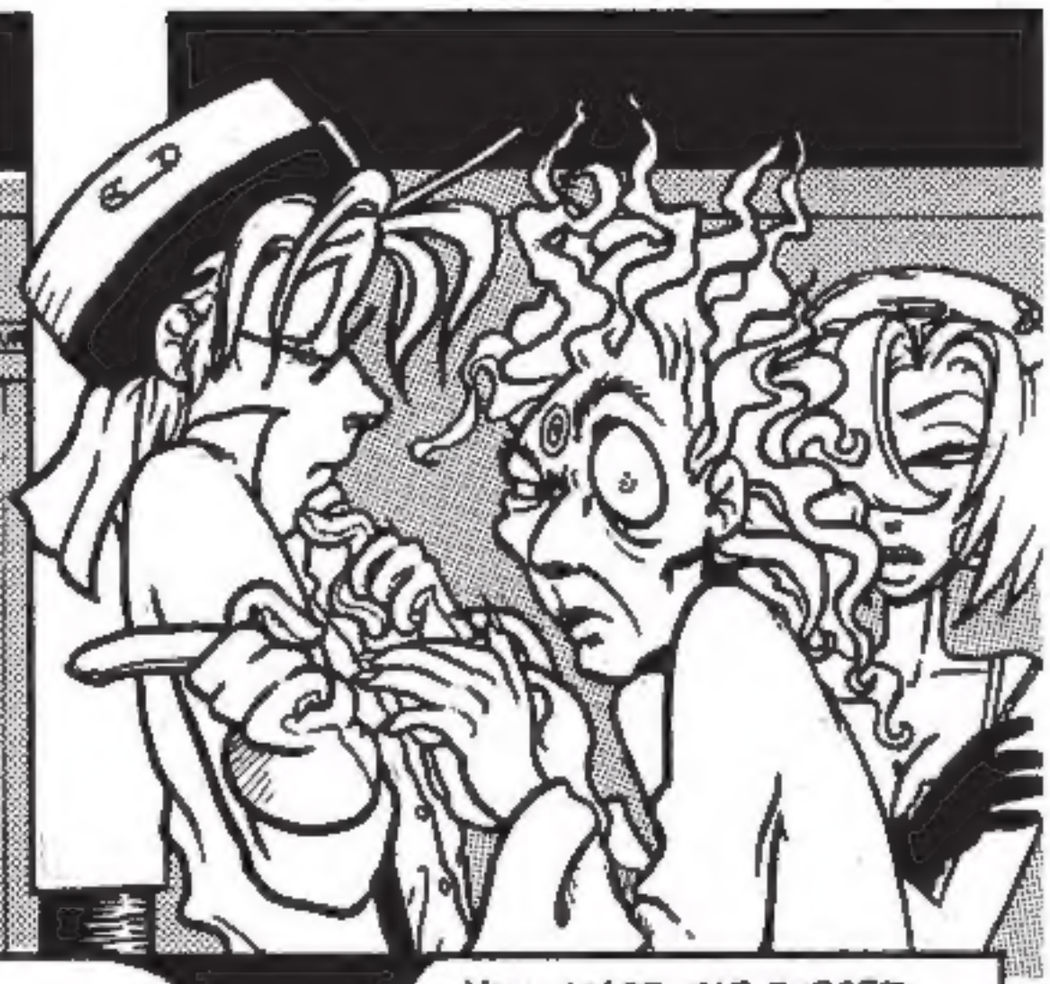
WHAY ARR YOO LAFFING?! ARR YE'ALL LAFFING A' ME??
NOO, LAD, WE -
AYE!

WE ARR! WEE'RE LAFFIN' AT YOU JUMMY! ARR YE GOW'N STAUP USS?
U'LL TAKE YOO WHERRE YOO STAND, MACKNUCKLES! SAY THE WURRD!

RRAIT! 'RETICULE'!
BOOGER! YE'RE FORRUT NOO!
ARRRRRR!
OOORRR!
DOUGAL!
DOUGAL MACWIKKENING! STOWP THA' THIS ANSTANT!
BOOGER! IT'S MA AUNTIE. LOOKY ESSCAIP FERR YOO!
HAOW CUN YE EXPAICT TAE LIVE FURREVER IF YE KEEP TRYIN TAE GATE YAIRSELF KILLED?
DOEN'T LEAVE THIS VULLAGE, MACKNUCLES! YOO'VE NO' SEEN THE LASST O' MEE!
YES, AUNTIE. SORRY.
REALLY? A LETTER FROM SCOTLAND?
OH, NO, I WAS WRONG. SORRY.
BUT IT DOES HAVE A THISTLE ON IT.
IT MUST BE FROM MY AUNT LOTTE.

AQUAAAARiUS!
BEHOLD THE HEAVING HEAVENS AS THEY BULGE WITH PORTENT AND BODING PROMISE! HEEED THE CRY OF THE BANSHEE AND MAAAARK THE DAY OF DARKNESS TO COME, AQUARIAN —
FOR TRULY IT IS ORDAINED IN THE CELESTRIAL SPHERES THAT THE WATER-CARRIER'S VESSEL IS TOMORROW POISONED WITH THE STAIN OF MORTALITY!
DEATH! DOOM! SHARP POINTY THINGS STUCK IN YOUR SOFT BITS, AND THE SOFT BITS OF AAALLL AQUARIANS!
TOMORROW! FOR TOMORROW -SHALL YOU DIE! DIE DIIIE!!

WHERE DO I GET A COFFEE?

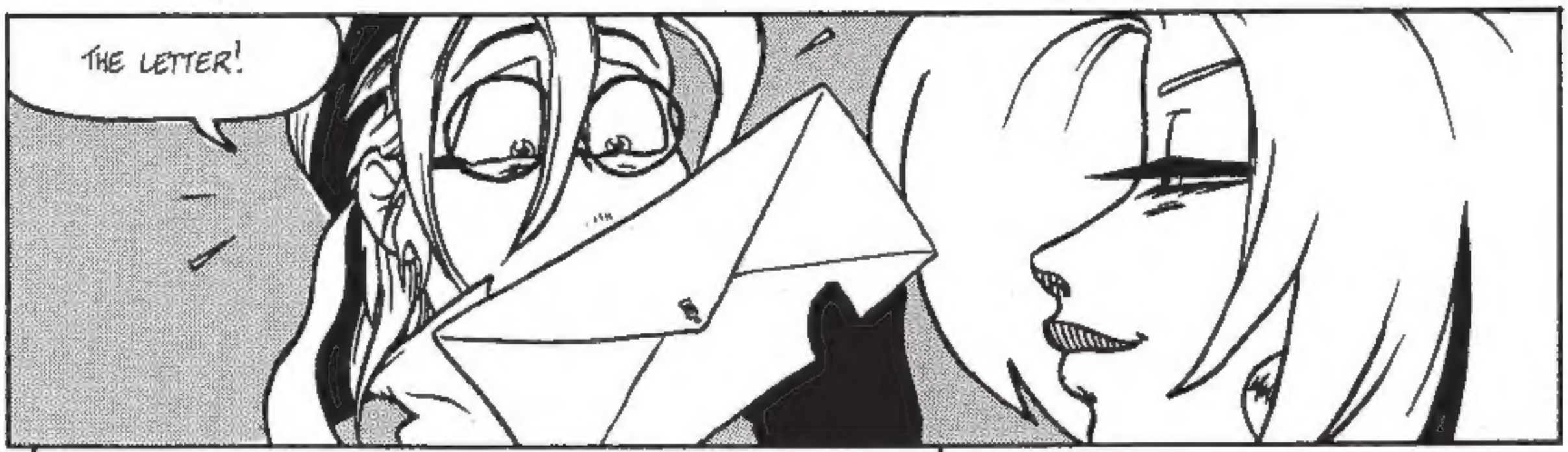


VOTTZ KEP-WRICC-AWN?
WELL, JER, HEY - IT'S BEEN FUN. IN PLACES.

YOU DON'T...
YOU HEARD THE EXPERT. ONE PERSON IN TWELVE KICKS THE BULLET TOMORROW.
PAT PAT
THAT'S SILLY.
OOOOOH. LOT OF PEOPLE BELIEVE IT, JER.

HALF A BILLION PEOPLE CAN'T JUST DIE!
HUBRIS! HUBRIS! ARGUING WITH DESTINY! OOOOOOOO!
STOP IT.
JUST THINK - IF YOU'D LISTENED TO THAT INSURANCE SALESMAN -

....YOU KNOW ANY OTHER AQUARIANS?
WELL, THERE'S MY AUNT LOTTE. BUT -



My skeely wee nephew

The Huge Great Castle
Above Loch Snuff

Hope this finds ye well and fertile.
I ken ye've no hoard tooth nay rumble
o' me 'tis bin geyly seven summers,
but the time has cam tae acquaint
ye wi ye'r Inheritance an sicklike,
as tomorrow I'll gang tae die.
(Ye'll want fur the life ye'rself be then,
'tis true, but we must hae kippers, must
we no? An' when I say 'kippers', o' course
I mean tae say 'Due Legal Process.')

'Tis true, too, I'm sweert tae
gang wi'out a sair fecht, but
when the weird's upon ye there's
nocht tae do, as ye ken. The pipes
are skirlin' the nicht, an poor guid
Rabbie Burns is a cupboard now on the
downstairs landing, but for aa' that
he'll no talk tae me.

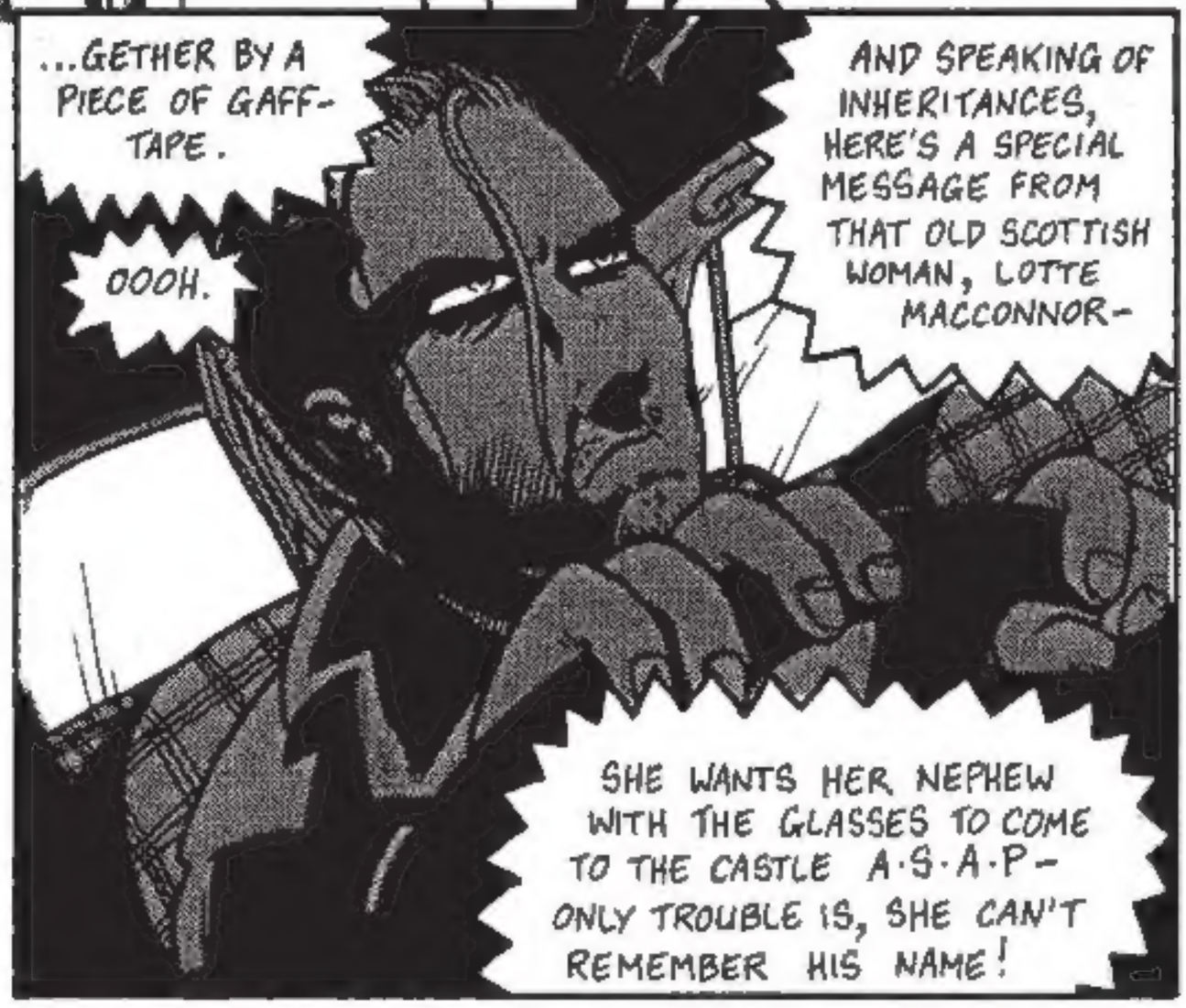
Afore aught else gangs agley,
cam oop tae the castle an' see me.
Ere I die would be guid.

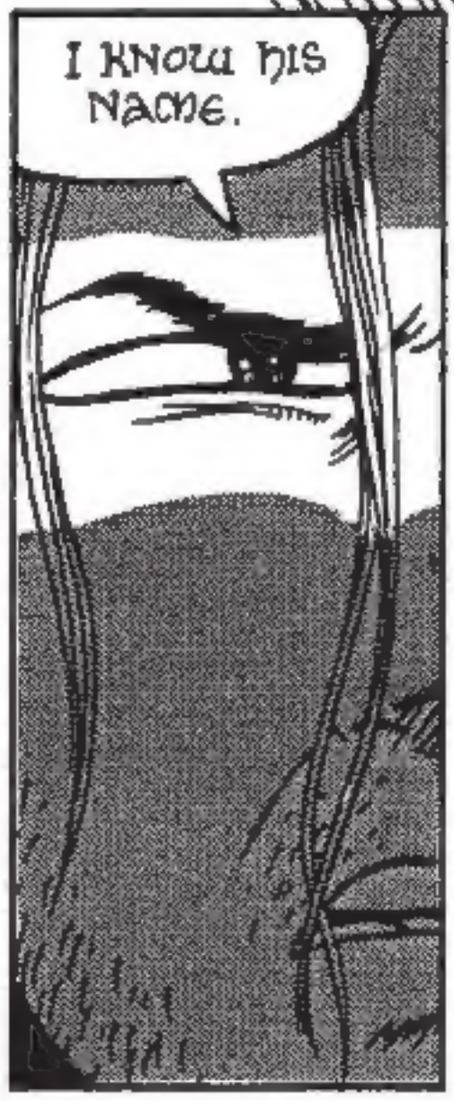
Ye'r yet-blythe Auntie,
Lottie MacConnor,
Tenchter the N'oo.

SO IS THE CASTLE REAL? OR IS IT A FLAT IN PADDINGTON WITH CARDBOARD BATTLEMENTS AND A SCREEN-DOOR WITH "PORTCULLIS" PAINTED ON?
IT'S REAL. I GREW UP THERE. I'VE GOT PICTURES.

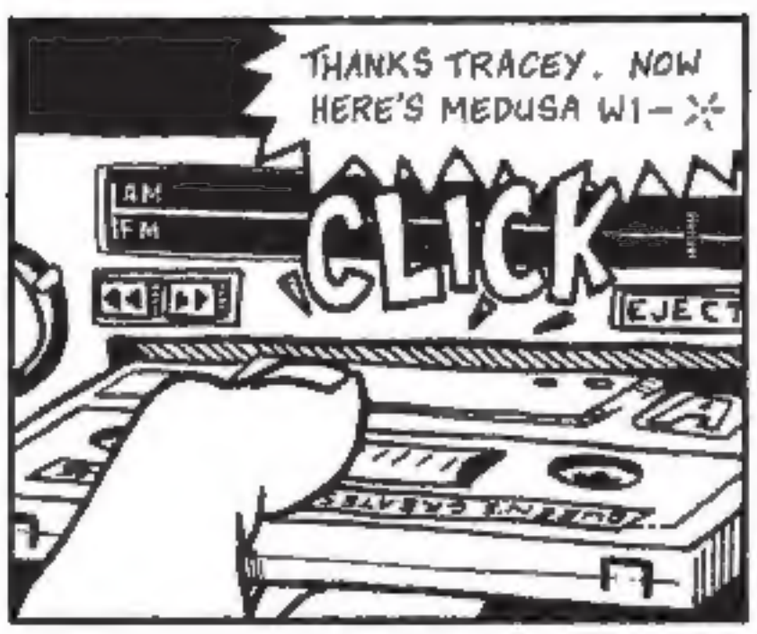
THIS ONE? YOU ON SANTA'S THRONE?
THE OTHER ONE.
ALL RIGHT!

GOGGLES ON, JEREMY. WARM UP THE SKIP.
WOH? WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WE'VE GOT A CASTLE TO INHERIT.


...GETHER BY A PIECE OF GAFF-TAPE.
OOOH.
AND SPEAKING OF INHERITANCES, HERE'S A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THAT OLD SCOTTISH WOMAN, LOTTE MACCONNOR-
SHE WANTS HER NEPHEW WITH THE GLASSES TO COME TO THE CASTLE A·S·A·P- ONLY TROUBLE IS, SHE CAN'T REMEMBER HIS NAME!


I KNOW HIS NAME.

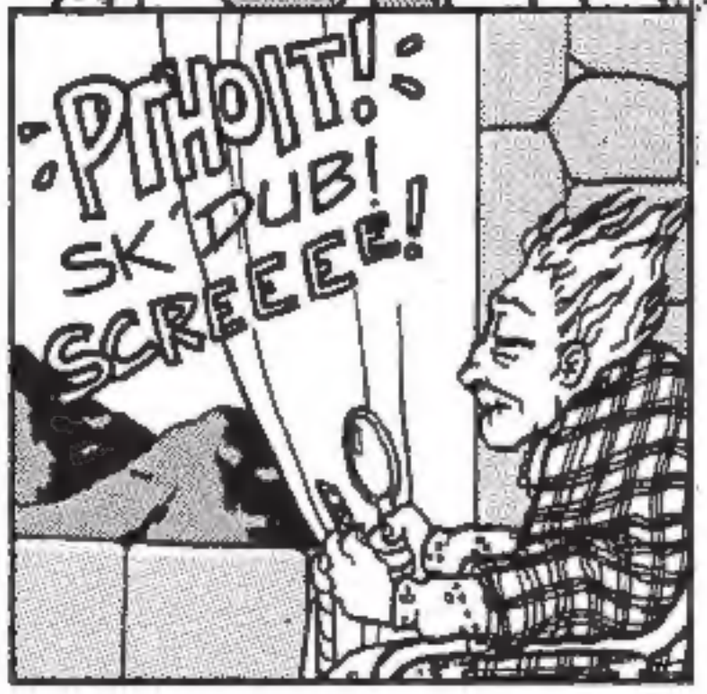
SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S WILLING, EH TRACEY?
HAHAHAHAHA! WHAT?
PRETTY


THANKS TRACEY. NOW HERE'S MEDUSA W1-
AM
FM
CLICK
EJECT

BUDDY YOUR'E A YOUNG MAN, MAD MAN, DRIVING IN YOUR CAR, GONNA MAKE A BIG MESS TODAY - YOU GOT BLOOD ON YOUR SWORD - FROM WHEN YOU GOT BORED - SOMEONE BETTER TELL YOU YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR GOURD!
AND THEN YOU WILL
YOU WILL KILL THEM!

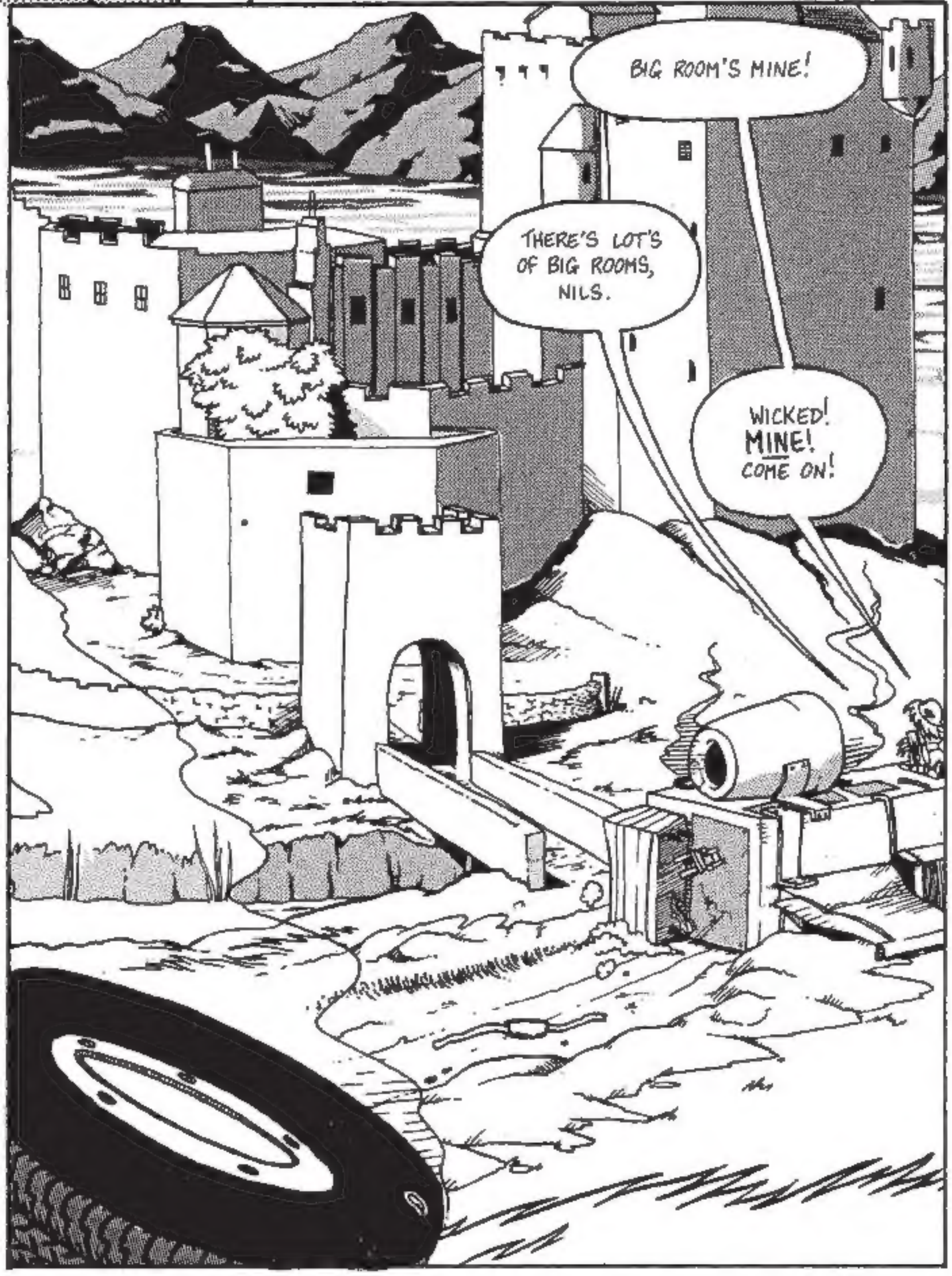
HELLO I'M JEREMY

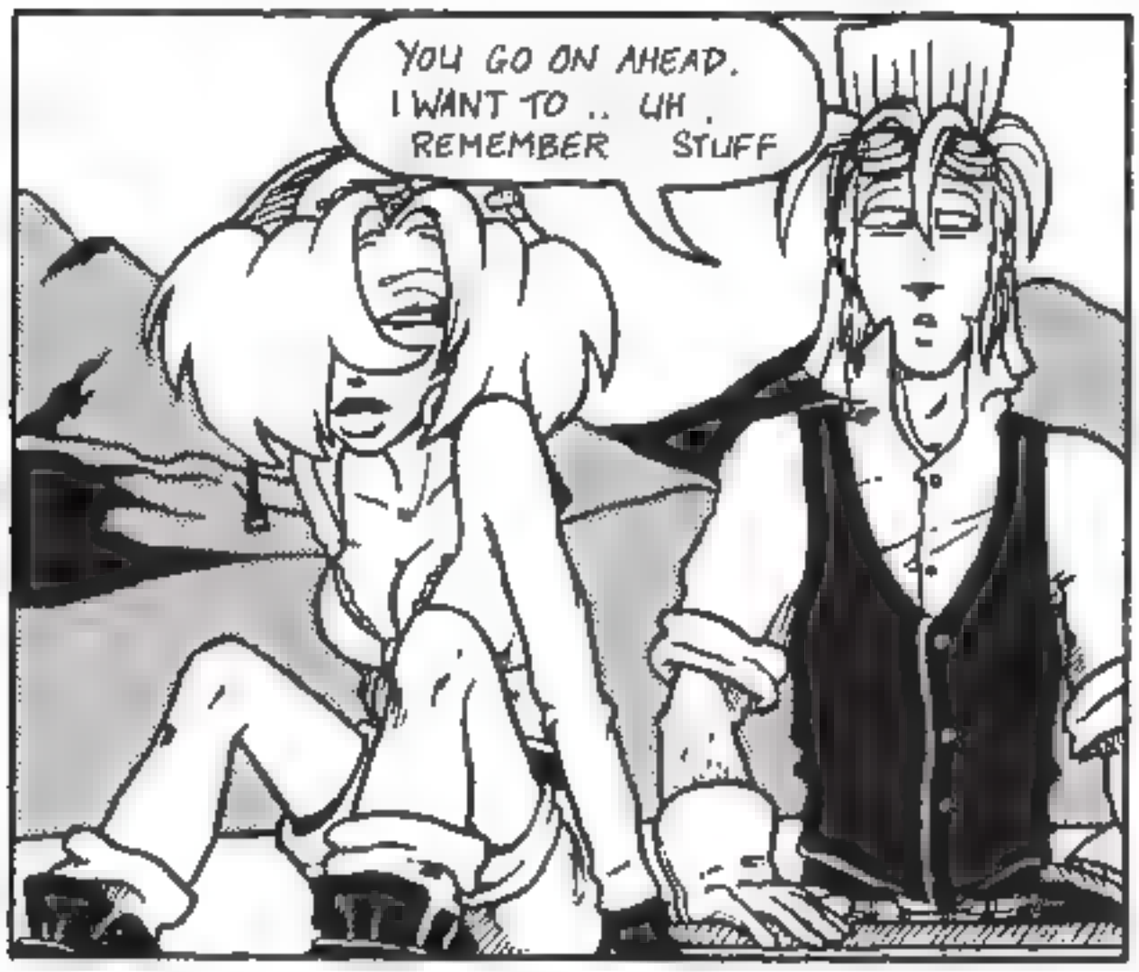
JURRAMEE!


PTHOIT!
SK PUB!
SCREEEE!

THUMP!
JURRAMEE.

SCORE!
UND A GERRL!


BIG ROOM'S MINE!
THERE'S LOT'S OF BIG ROOMS, NILS.
WICKED! MINE! COME ON!



JURRAMEE? UZ THART ... JURRAMEE?

LOOK JER, IT'S THE LOONEY.

I'M ABOOT TAE DIE O' COORRSE

NICE ONE, JER

I MEANT . YOU KNOW, APART FROM –

AUNT LOTTE? HOW ARE YOU?

OCH, SHUT YE'R NOISE AN' LAIT ME LOOK A' YE.

OOOO BUT YE'VE GROOWN...YE'RE LOOKING REET PASTEY -CAN YE NO GATE SUMM CULLUR IN YE? AH SPOOZE THIS HAY'RR'S FUSHUNNUBLE NOOARHDAZE? UZ IT? UND ARR YE RAPPIN' OPP NAICE AN' WHARM? STAND STAIL, JURAMEE, STAWP YE'R SQUIRMIN ABOOT... AH SEE YE'R FAID WULL - GAITTIN' A BIT OF A TOOMMY, URRNT WEY?

HAOW'S YE'R SPAIRRM COONT?
AUNTIE!!

UND YE'R SHAVIN'!
TWICE A WEEK, NOW.

UND HEEER'S WEE MEG! LOOKIT, YE'VE HUD YE'R HAYRR DOON! UND YE'R THRAY UNCHES SHAWT'RR!
THIS IS NILS, AUNT LOTTE.

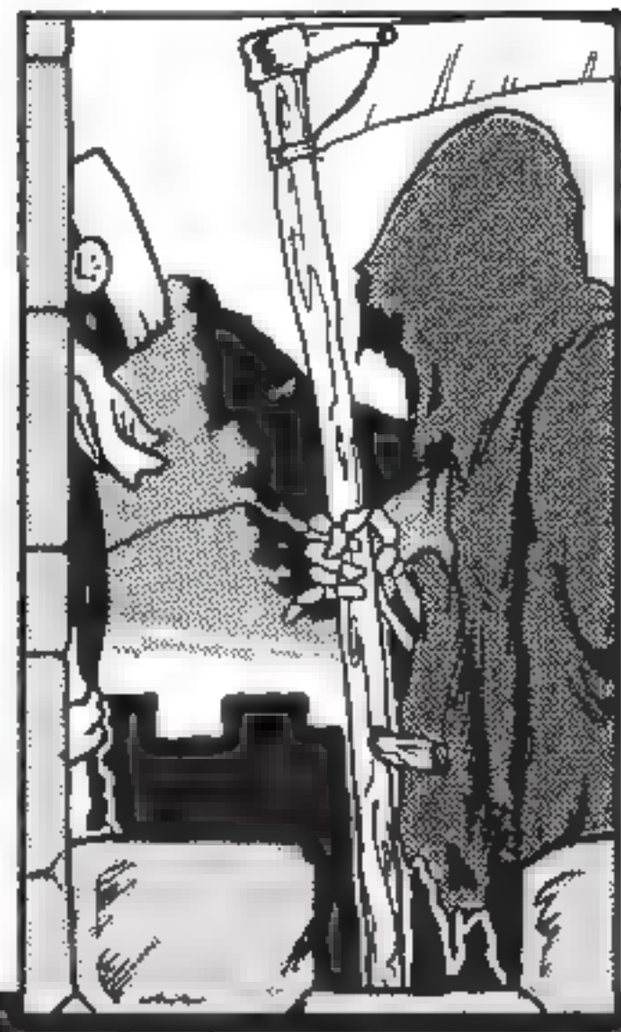
YE'VE GORT BRRAISSTS!
AUNTIE IT'S NOT MEG!

I'M NILSON. YOU MUST BE THE GIBBERING OLD FEEB FROM THE LETTER.
AYE. THA'SS REET

LOONEY.
AN' THART'S A FEYN PAYRRA HUPS YAY'VE GOAT THAYIRRR.

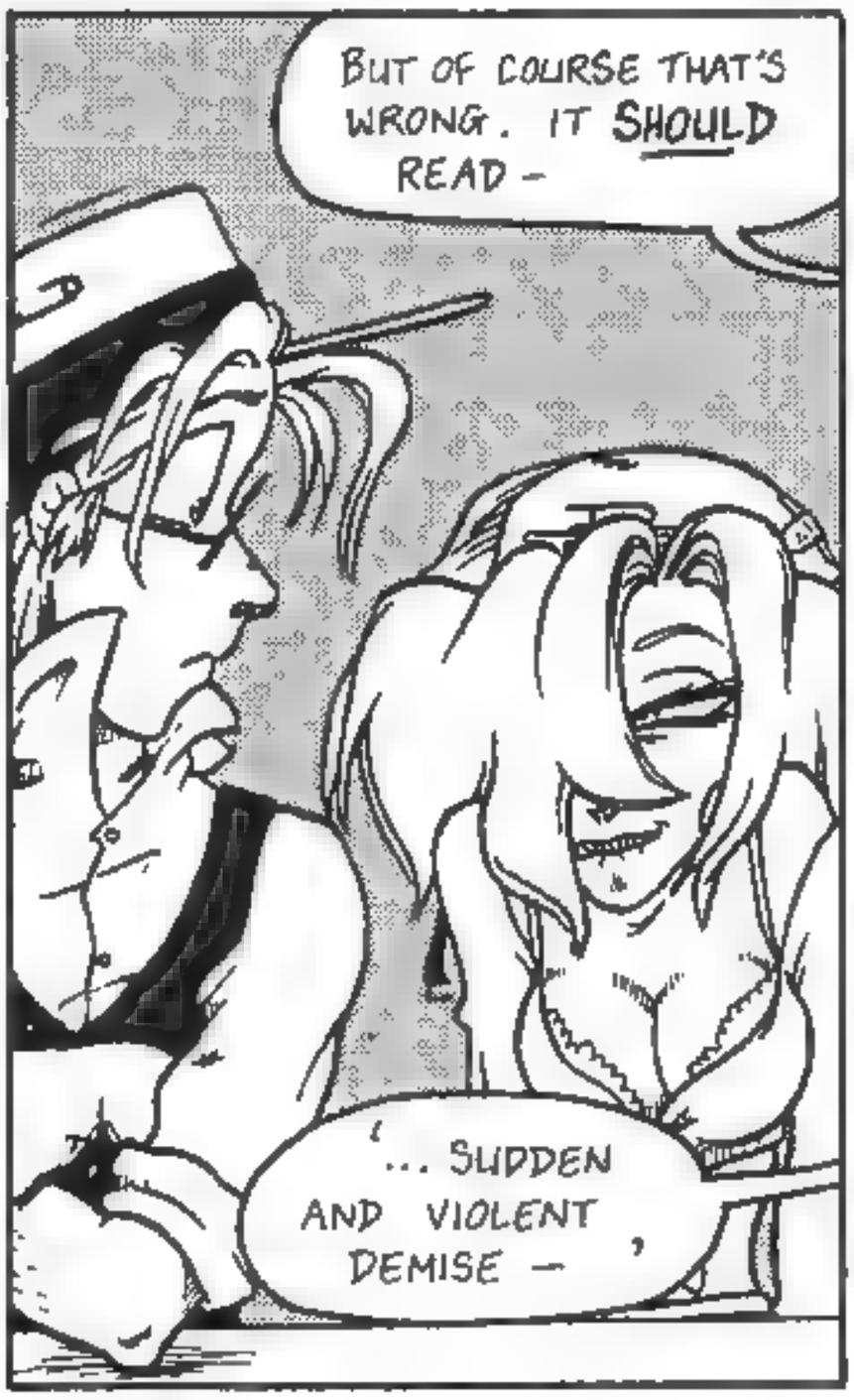
SO WHEN'S THE KICK OFF?
AWN TH' MORROW. COOM AWN UNN!

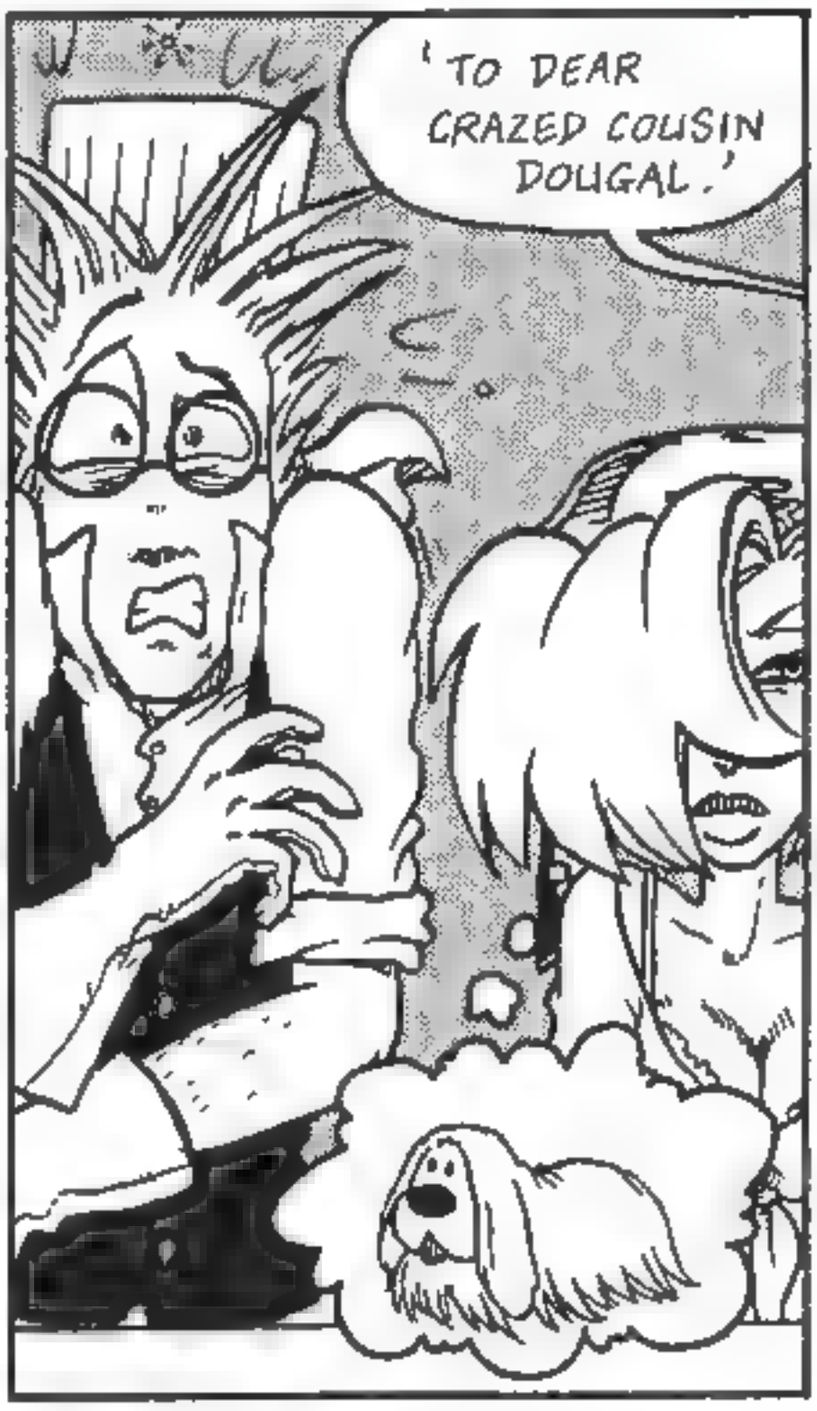
LOONEY.. LOONEY...
MAYBE I KILL MYSELF...



A WEE WHILE LATER....
'...IN IT'S ENTIRETY TO MASTER JEREMY MACCONNOR.'
YES!
'OR IN THE EVENT OF HIS SUDDEN AND VIOLENT DEMISE, TO...'...HMMMM...

SOMEONE SEEMS TO HAVE LIQUID PAPERED THIS NEXT BIT OUT AND WRITTEN 'HIS DEAREST FRIEND AND COMPANION AND THAT'S ALL, NILSON KERR.'


BUT OF COURSE THAT'S WRONG. IT SHOULD READ -
'... SUDDEN AND VIOLENT DEMISE -'


'TO DEAR CRAZED COUSIN DOUGAL.'

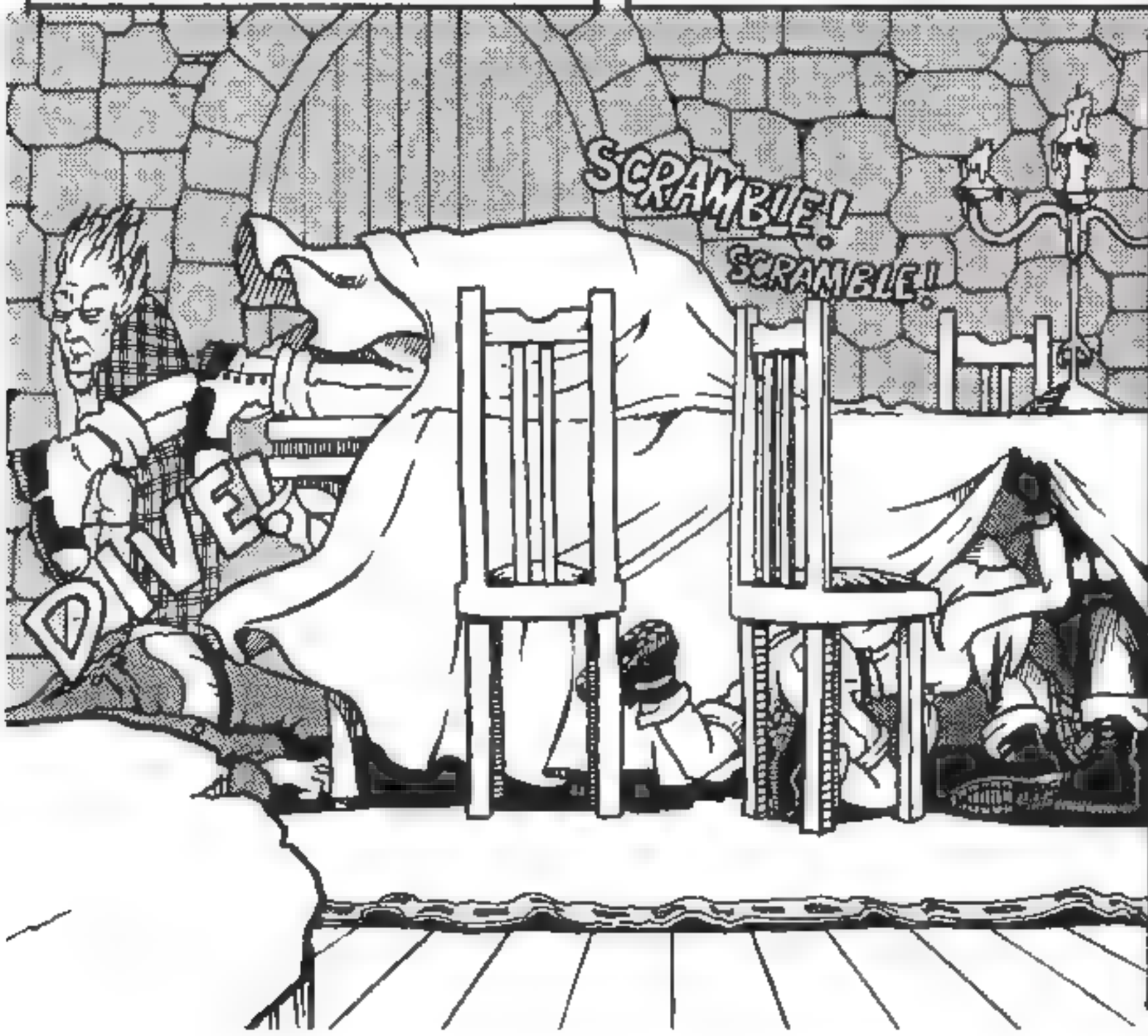
DASH!

Tha'ss REET, BEEDLE! UN DINNAE FERGAIT UT!
KNOCK!

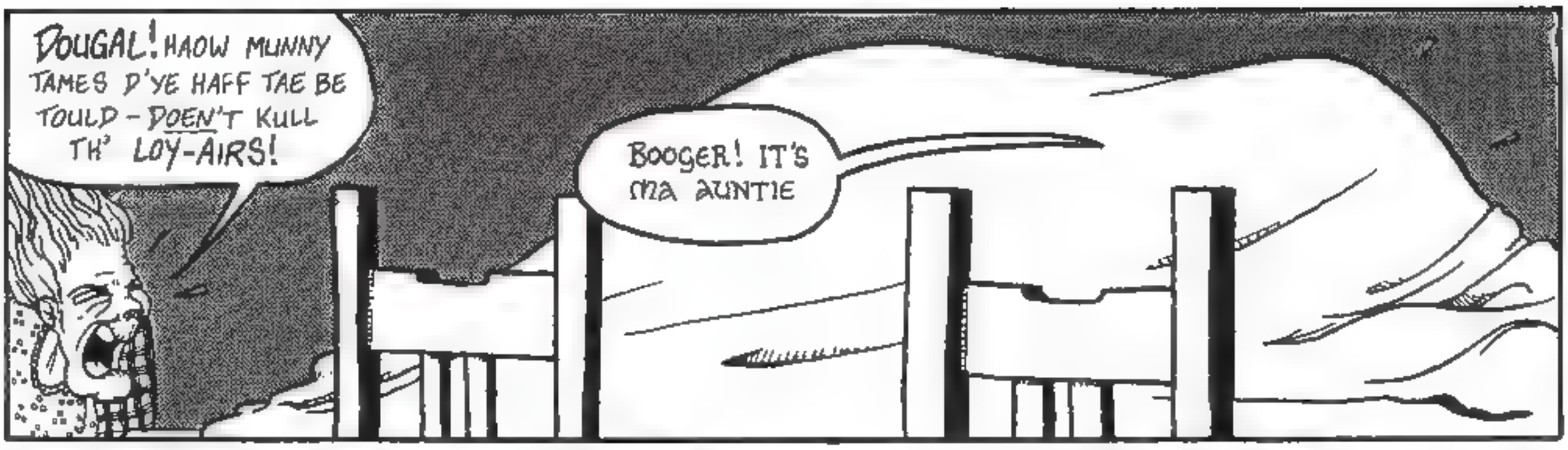
SO IS THIS COUSIN DOUGAL?

JEREMY?
YES.

SEE YOO JURRY!
I'M DEAD.


SCRAMBLE!
SCRAMBLE!!
DIVE!

SCRAMBLE!
SCRAMB
NO YOU'RE NOT. DON'T WORRY.


DOUGAL! HAOW MUNNY TAMES D'YE HAFF TAE BE TOULD - DOEN'T KULL TH' LOY-AIRS!
BOOGER! IT'S MA AUNTIE

WHUT'S YE'RE AIXCYOOSE THUSS TAME?
AH FERRGOAT?
YE'RE NORT TAE KULL COOS'N JURRAMEE 'TUL TH' MORROW!

OCH, A JIST WONTIO TAE GATE TH' CASSELL! 'TWAS NOOTHUN' SUNUSTER!
AH KNOO.

NAOW SAY YE'RE SAWRY TAE ....
WHURR'D THAY GOO?

LOOK - YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY.
I KNOW, MON.
AND PRETENDING TO BE JAMAICAN WON'T HELP EITHER.

LISTEN - I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED, BUT THERE'S A LOT AT STAKE HERE. ACCORDING TO THE WILL IF YOU LEAVE THE CASTLE GROUNDS, YOU FORFEIT EVERYTHING. NOW I KNOW DOUGAL IS BIG, AND MEAN, AND PSYCHOPATHIC...
AND IMMO'TAAL.
AND -
WELL, NO-ONE SAID IT WAS GOING TO BE EASY. THE POINT IS - YOU CAN'T LEAVE THE CASTLE.
I AIN'T GOIN' NO PLACE.
GOOD.

BUT DERE'S JUS' ONE T'ING MON.
WHAT?

WHY YOU TELLIN' ME DIS? DE JEREMY MON, HE WENT DAAT-A-WAY.

CLUTCH!

OH, THANKS.
HEY, NO BODDA.

SHMACK!!!

AAAAAHHH! LET ME GO!!! DOUGAL! DEATH! BLOOD! BIG SHARP SWORDS!!!
JEREMY.
AAAAA AAAAHH!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO.

I'M GOING TO DIE! STAB STAB! AAAH AAAH!! BLEED BLEED BLEED!! THUMP! AAAAHHH!
AND IF YOU STAY, I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE.

AAH! STAB.. BLEED.... AND STUFF...

HAEMORRHAGE....

REALLY?
REALLY
NO-ONE?
NO-ONE. BUT YOU HAVE TO PROMISE.

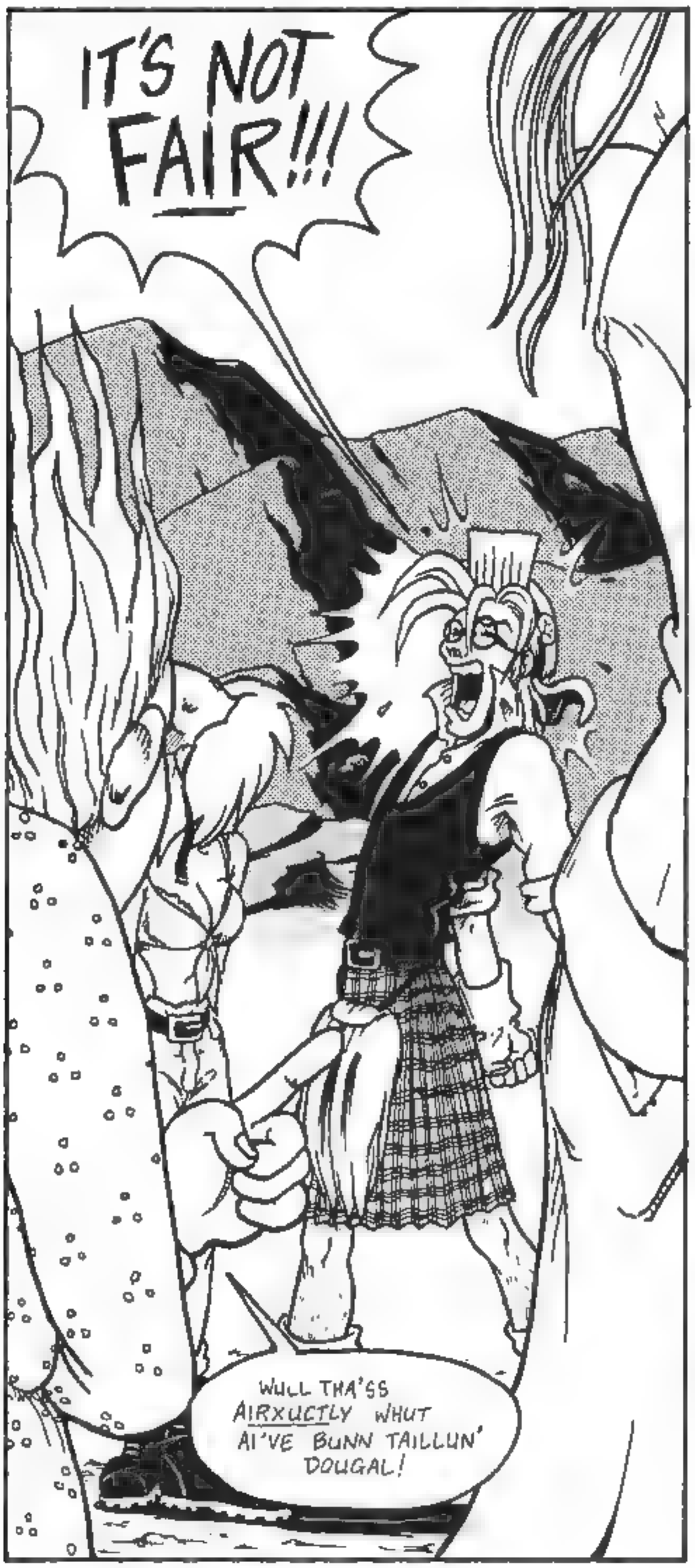
OKAY. I'LL STAY. TELL ME. IS IT ABOUT ME?
NO.
HAS IT GOT ME IN IT?
NOT EXACTLY.

YOU MEAN IT SORT OF HAS ME IN IT? TELL ME!
WELL JEREMY..
YES?

I'M A GIRL.

YOU'VE..... .NEVER TOLD ANYONE ..
NOPE. NEVER HAD TO.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHH!!!
WHEY JURRUMEE! HWORTS AMESS?


IT'S NOT FAIR!!!
WULL THA'SS AIRXUCTLY WHUT AI'VE BUNN TAILLUN' DOUGAL!

IT IS? YOU HAVE?
AYE! WEVV BUN HUVVIN' A CHENWUG!
A WHAT!?

UN' THA'SS WHEY WAIVE D'SAYDUDD TAE HOULD A DJEWELL TAE TH' DAYTH!

TAE BEE FAYURR TAE YE BAWTH.

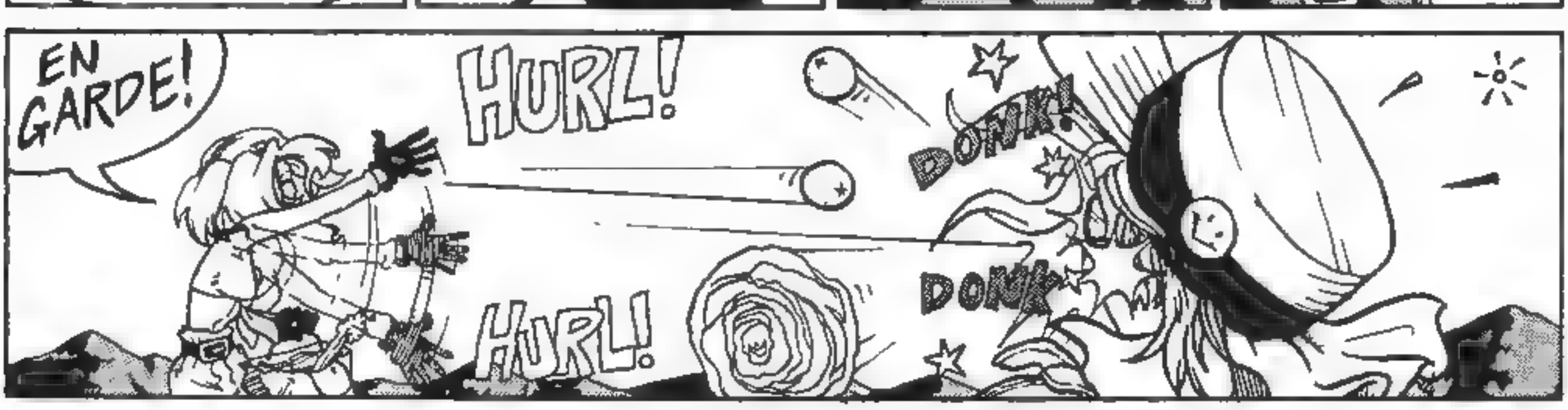
BUT I'M SUPPOSED TO DIE TOMORROW ANYWAY! WHAT CHANCE DOES A DUEL GIVE ME??
P'RRUPPS YE CUNN TAYKE HUM WETH YE!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
PRETTY.
I KNOW. C'MON, JER.
WE'RE GOING?
LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON TO TURN YOU INTO A KILLING MACHINE
OKAY.
WILL I HURT?
YES
STAWP THUT!
ALL-RIGHT. NOW WE'VE ONLY GOT THIS AFTERNOON, SO PAY ATTENTION. WE'LL START WITH THE BASICS, OKAY?
.....
RIGHT.
NOW – THIS IS A SWORD.
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE DOUGAL'S ONLY YOU CAN SEE IT WHEN IT MOVES
SHUT-UP.

NOW THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS THING –
ONE MISTAKE AND THAT'S IT, YES?

EXACTLY HOW BASIC ARE WE GETTING HERE?
I'VE TAILORED THIS COURSE TO YOUR SPECIFIC NEEDS, JER.
OH THANKS.

SO WE'LL START WITH SOMETHING MORE FORGIVING.

GROCERIES!!


EN GARDE!
HURL!
HURL!
DONK!
DONK

HURL!
CRACK!
HEY!

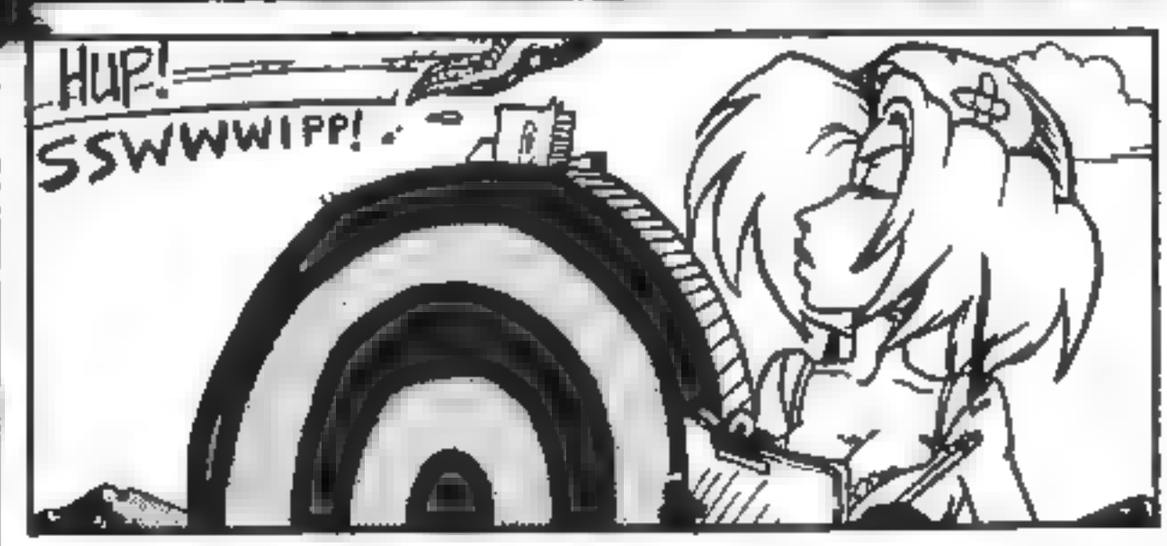
LATER....
THE TRICK IS TO FIND THE CONSUMABLE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.
OF COURSE.
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
GRUNT!
MMPH!
SWWPP!
THUDD!
NOT WATER-MELON EITHER.
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE

YOU KNOW - IT'S FUNNY, ONE MOMENT YOU'RE A -
DORK.
- WITH ASPIRATIONS.
SPLAT!

AND THE NEXT MINUTE - PFFTZ! I MEAN.... YOU'RE JUST SO MUCH-
BALLAST. YEAH.
THPUT!

HAH!

I AM LEGEND!
I GOT BEETROOT STAINS ON MY GLOVES

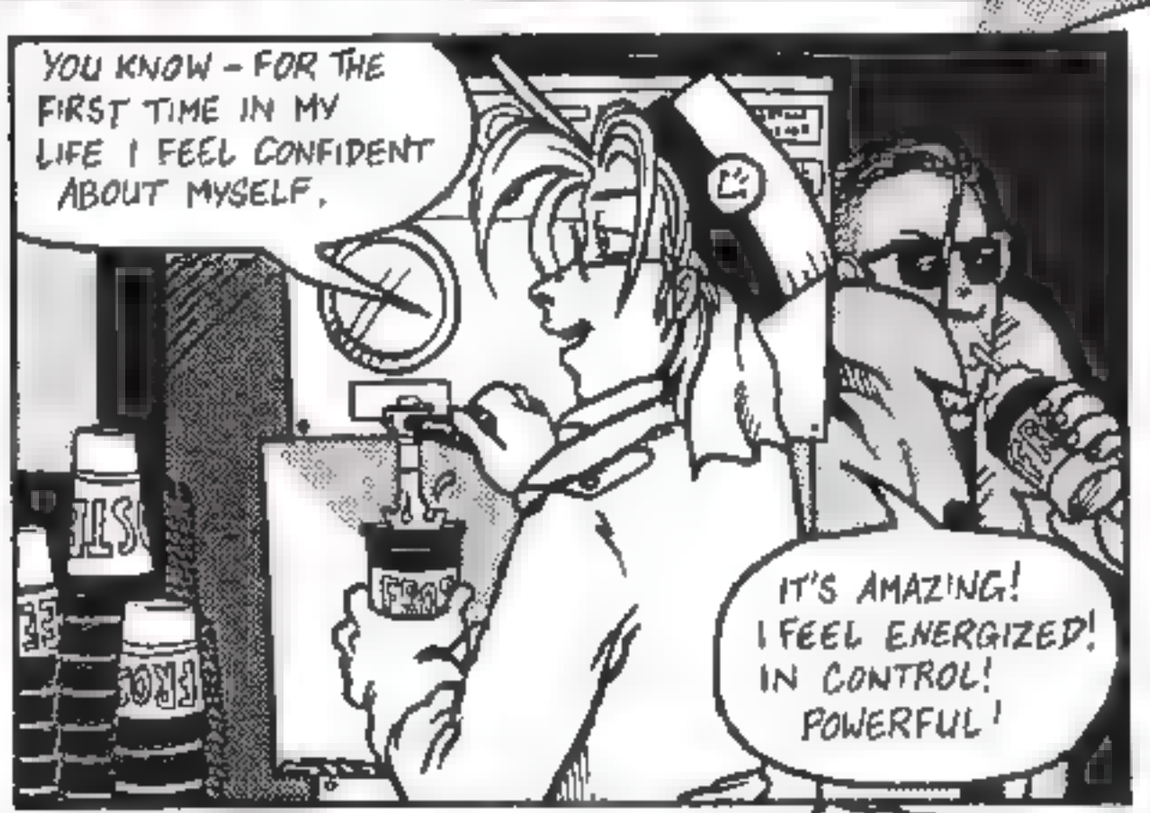

HUP!
SSWWWIPP!

JELLIED EELS FEELS GOOD.
I THINK YOU'RE GETTING WARM.

NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!
IS IT FISH, JEREMY? THINK CAREFULLY.
IT'S FISH, NILS!

IT'S FISH! HAH!
WOO! I DID IT! I DISARMED YOU!

SNOK!
YOU'RE READY.
I DID IT...?
FROSTEE?
FROSTEE
TWO PLEASE.
WOO! THE BOILER SUIT EDITION!


YOU KNOW - FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT MYSELF.
IT'S AMAZING! I FEEL ENERGIZED! IN CONTROL! POWERFUL!

MANLY!
LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY, JER.
I FEEL I COULD -
THE ONLY
BEEF! MAGAZINE

NYOO TURRT'N FLAYVURR!
AAAAAAHH!

OCH! UT'S TWEEDY!
SHMACK!

IT'S NO USE NILS ..

EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE.... ... AND DOUGAL WAS BIG....

EIGHT MONTHS -

SHMAK!

AGE THREE -

SHMAK!

KUNK

AGE SEVEN -

WAP!

AGE ELEVEN -

SHWACK!

AGE FOURTEEN -

OPPENHEIMER CHEMISTRY SET

AGE SIXTEEN -

WHACK!

GRADUATION -

UN SITY SCIENC GRADUATE

JEREMY.

WHUH?

IT'S FISH.

FISH!
HAH! YOU ... YOU FOUL DESPOILER YOU! YOU'VE BEAT ME UP FOR THE LAST TIME!
yay LOVVUT, YE BEG GAIRRUL!
THE WEAPON! HAH!
NOW IT'S MY TURN! BECAUSE I'VE GOT-
SHOVE!
SHLUP!
WHING!
CHOP! CHOP! HACK! SLICE! WHING! SLASH! SWIPE! HACK! SLICE
HANG ON! YOU CAN'T KILL ME 'TIL...
STAB! HACK! MAIM STAB! CHOP! DICE! CHOP! DICE! STAB! HACK! WHING! STAB! GORE! GOUGE! DRAW! HACK! SLASH! SLICE!

hudd ainoof?
SLICE!
MAYBE...
IGARET
Booger! hwair's ma Soooorrd!?
NO FIGHT
HURL!
THUNK!
Guid showt, Lussie! I'm empraissed!
You did it! You got him! You got Dougal!
Aye!
SHWACK!
Wull, see yoo taemowrrd fer th' reel feet!
I'm not ready.
Guess not.
DAY TRIP

BEDTIME.

NAOW YOO GATE A GUID RRAIST THE NICHT, JURRUMEE! YE'RE BAYIN' KULLED TAEMAWRRA!

GOODNIGHT AUNTIE.

To my dearest Nils
~~the secret love of my life~~
by Jeremy ~~Age 22~~

Tonight is my last night on Earth
Tomorrow my blood spills
With all that flying lymph
and gore
I hope none lands on Nils.

KATE

For though I've never
mentioned it
To friend or Enemy
I wish just once, before
I die
That Nils would land on me

WRITE
WRITE

And when you find this note,
Dear Nils
Amongst all my posessions
You'll learn I dreamt of you
And me
And endless snogging sessions.

WRITE
WRITE

KATE BLISH

KNOCK!
KNOCK!

SCRUNCH!

MIDNIGHT SNACK?

MUNCH!
MUNCH!

MmmpH.

JUST CAME AROUND TO...
...SAY GOODNIGHT.

MmmpH?

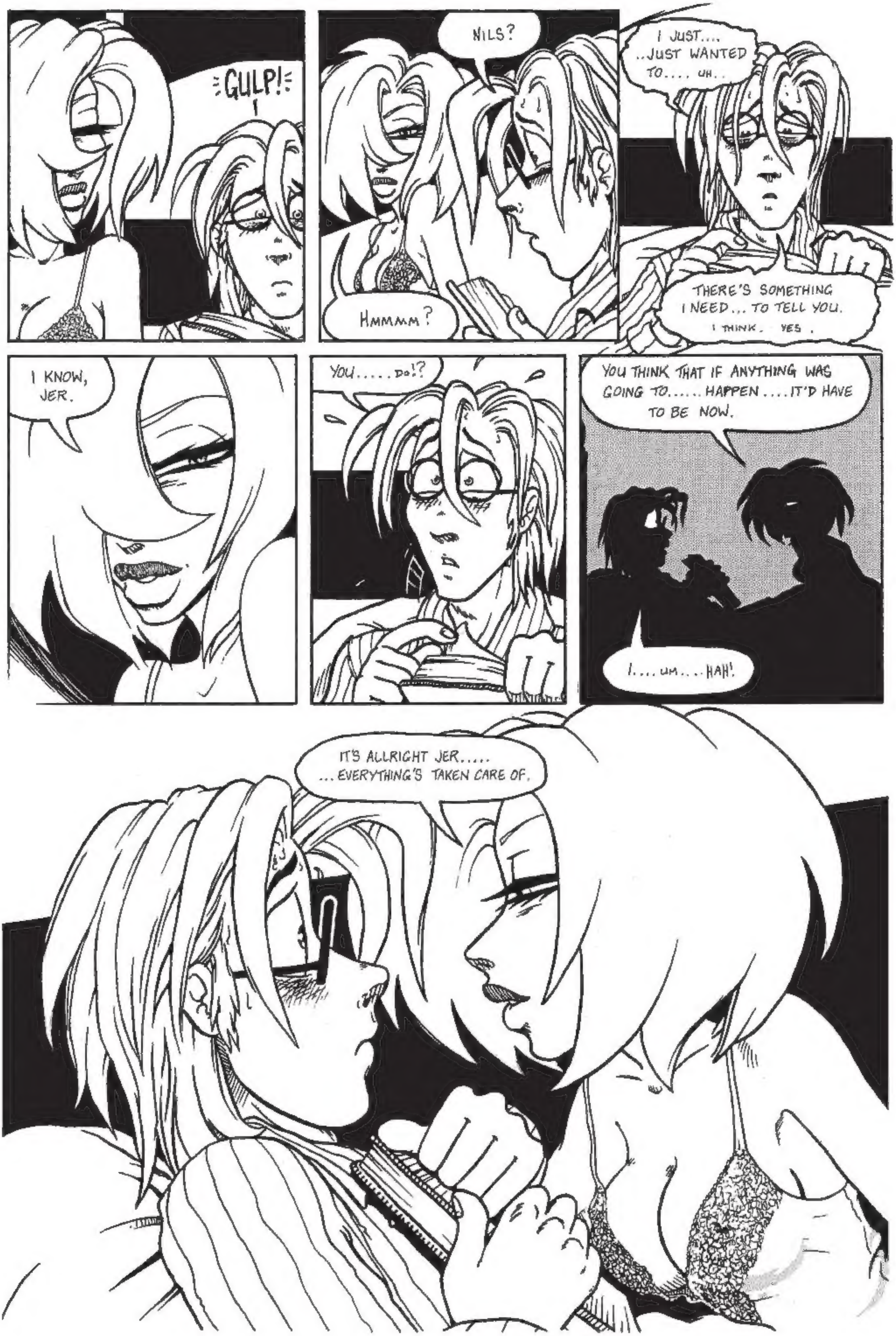
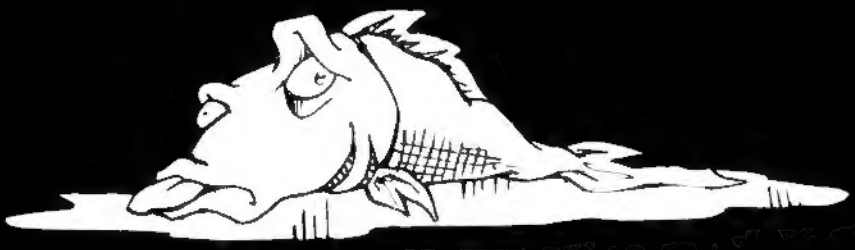
ISH

MUNCH!
MUNCH!

AND TO TELL YOU NOT TO WORRY....

MUNCH!
MUNCH!

WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.


GULP!
NILS?
HMMMM?
I JUST.... ..JUST WANTED TO.... UH..
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED... TO TELL YOU. I THINK. YES.
I KNOW, JER.
YOU.....DO!?
YOU THINK THAT IF ANYTHING WAS GOING TO..... HAPPEN ....IT'D HAVE TO BE NOW.
I.... UM.... HAH!
IT'S ALLRIGHT JER..... ...EVERYTHING'S TAKEN CARE OF.

YOU SEE, IF YOU'RE GOING TO DIE TOMORROW, THEN NOTHING CAN HAPPEN TO YOU TONIGHT. YOU'LL BE FINE.
WHAT?
SEE YOU IN THE MORNING....
BRIEFLY.
YEAH.....
...'NIGHT NILS.